Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently amended) A method for screening for an agent that modulates NF-κB activity comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a candidate agent with an isolated human E3 ubiquitin ligase polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:16 or a variant of SEQ ID NO:16 that differs therefrom at no more than [[10%]] 15% of the amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:16 wherein said variant retains the ability to enhance ubiquitination of phosphorylated IκB, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit interaction between the polypeptide and the candidate agent; and

b) determining whether the polypeptide enhances ubiquitination of phoshorylated IκB, relative to a predetermined ability of the polypeptide to enhance ubiquitination of phoshorylated IκB in the absence of the candidate agent, and, if so;

c) identifying an agent that modulates NF-κB activity.

40. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the candidate agent is a small molecule.

41. (Currently amended) A method for screening for an agent that modulates NF-κB activity comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a candidate agent with an isolated human E3 ubiquitin ligase polypeptide comprising a variant of SEQ ID NO:16 that differs therefrom at no more than 10% of the amino acid residues [[od]] of SEQ ID NO:16 wherein said variant retains the ability to enhance ubiquitination of phoshorylated IκB, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit interaction between the polypeptide and candidate agent;

b) determining whether the polypeptide enhances ubiquitination of phosphorylated IκB, relative to a predetermined ability of the polypeptide to enhance ubiquitination of phosphorylated IκB in the absence of the candidate agent, and, if so;

c) identifying an agent that modulates NF-κB activity.

42. (Previously presented) A method for screening for an agent that modulates NF-κB activity comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a candidate agent with an isolated human E3 ubiquitin ligase polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:16 or a truncated portion thereof of at least 50 amino acid residues wherein said portion retains the ability to enhance ubiquitination of phoshorylated IκB, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit interaction between the polypeptide and candidate agent;

b) determining whether the polypeptide binds phosphorylated IκB or a phosphorylated IκB peptide comprising SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9, and if so;

c) identifying an agent that modulates NF-κB activity.

43. (Previously presented) A method for screening for an agent that modulates NF-κB activity comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a candidate agent with an isolated human E3 ubiquitin ligase polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:16 or a truncated portion thereof of at least 50 amino acid residues wherein said portion retains the ability to enhance ubiquitination of phoshorylated IκB, under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit interaction between the polypeptide and candidate agent;

b) determining whether the polypeptide modulates the release of NF-κB from IκB or the nuclear translocation of NF-κB, and if so;

c) identifying an agent that modulates NF-κB activity.